



FOCUS ON FAMILY LIFE

Restoring the family unit

*He heals the brokenhearted and binds
up their wounds.*

(Psalm 147:3)



24-7 PRAYER FOR REVIVAL 2 - 8 DECEMBER 2024

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RESTORING THE FAMILY UNIT

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The God-ordained family structure today is widely threatened by worldly thinking and perceptions. Parents and children can overcome these pressures by praying together as a family. In this first of a 3-week series, 'Focus on Family Life', we pray for families to make life-altering changes and seek the Lord for His instruction and guidance.

MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2024 THE FAMILY

Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalm 127:1).

Most families function normally and are fulfilling God's purposes for them. Whatever the situation in your family may be, turning to God who holds the future in His hands is always the solution. He alone is your hope despite the challenges you may face.

Let us pray

- Facing difficulties as a family can make it hard to trust God for leading, guiding and instructing you as a family. Surrender any self-effort as a family before the Lord, and decide to trust Him for everything you need as a family.
- As a family, ask God to show you the things you permit in your family that do not honour Him. Ask Him to help you stop doing these things.
- Ask the Lord to help you and your family shine your light before men; that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:13-16).

TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2024

FATHERS

Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live. (1 Corinthians 8:6).

Children need to understand the father's role in their family is to care for them. Likewise, they have a Heavenly Father. He is the Source of life. He provides for their needs, corrects them because He loves them, and gives them wisdom. Fathers also have the privilege to show their kids God's love by extending forgiveness when they make and learn from their own mistakes.

Let us pray

- Where there is hurt, pain and disappointment, ask the Lord to restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers (Malachi 4:6).
- Pray for righteous fathers to put on love, which is the bond of perfection (Colossians 3:14).
- Christ should be the controlling factor in your heart regarding decisions and questions that arise. Ask God for His peace to reign in your heart as a father.

WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2024

MOTHERS

That they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. (Titus 2:4-5).

Being a mother is an important role that the Lord gives to the woman in a family. A Christian mother is exhorted to love her children, take care of them, cherish them, embrace them lovingly, meet their needs and take the responsibility of motherhood to heart so that she does not disappoint the Lord her Saviour.

Let us pray

- Pray for mothers to model integrity – living what they say, being a model from whom a child can learn by observing the essence of godly living (Deuteronomy 4:9).
- Pray for mothers to discipline their children and teach them the fear of the Lord. To consistently set healthy boundaries (Hebrews 12:5-11).
- Ask the Lord to help mothers to provide an environment of encouragement, the freedom to learn from mistakes, unconditional acceptance, affection and unconditional love (2 Timothy 1:7).

THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2024

CHILDREN

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. (1 Corinthians 13:11).

Parents need to encourage their children to not only hear but also memorise Scripture. This will help them better understand God's will for them. Also how to love others and draw close to God in prayer. It will ground them in the understanding of who they are in Christ.

Let us pray

- Pray that God's Word will be central in every home and for opportunities for families to discuss the teachings of Jesus' everyday life on earth.

- Pray for children to obey their parents in all things, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Jesus Himself obeyed His parents (Luke 2:51).
 - Pray for them to love memorising Scripture from of young. This will help them establish a solid foundation to stand on when they need to make decisions in everyday life.
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FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER 2024

ARGUMENTS

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; (James 1:19).

No family will necessarily agree on everything. Arguments and differences occur as we are exposed to the world view of the day, immorality and access to the Internet, e.g. screen time allowed for children. However, these differences can be voiced respectfully and peacefully. Discussing what is acceptable to the Lord and praying together as a family will help overcome these obstacles.

Let us pray

- Pray for families to be willing to pray together when facing difficulties. This will help build their faith and learn to trust God. He upholds us with His righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:10).
 - Pray for family members going through pain and conflict to be aware of God's nearness and love. Ask that they will not lose sight of the Lord and be guided by the Holy Spirit's wisdom and love.
 - Ask for families to pray for wisdom and self-discipline to do what is godly and uplifting.
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SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2024

DIVORCE

...!FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'?...Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." (Matthew 19:5-6).

Divorce can have a devastating impact on all involved, especially the children. God's Word encourages forgiveness and reconciliation. It also emphasises the potential for healing and restoring broken relationships. Put the thought of divorce as an easy way out aside. Rejoice in tribulations knowing that tribulation produces perseverance... (Romans 5:3-5).

Let us pray

- Pray for husbands and wives to remember that marriage is a covenant for life that reflects the love and relationship between Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:31-32).
 - Pray for couples to seek God's wisdom and grace, support each other with love and compassion and point their children to Jesus during this dark time.
 - Pray for the Church to walk alongside those contemplating divorce to encourage them to explore restoration before taking the final step.
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SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2024

RESTORE THE BROKEN FAMILY

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. (1 Peter 5:10).

Restoring a broken family is complicated but possible. When you present your challenges to Jesus as a family, you can trust Him to heal your family through His power. Choose to follow Jesus and open your hearts to Him so He works deep within. One way to do this as a family is to start reading the Word of God, to pray together and build a relationship with Jesus.

Let us pray

- Ask God to use the brokenness and deep hurts families experience for His glory. Ask that they will be restored and moved into His created purpose for their lives again. (Ephesians 2:10).
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to guide parents in building a family that is vibrant in the spirit and filled with His life.
 - Pray for families to let go of the past and forgive each other. Pray that they will be restored and form a new family life focused on God.
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